

Reserve

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EXTENSION SERVICE
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The Ways in Which the Work of the Extension Entomologists Affects
the Health of Man

The most important responsibility of the extension entomologists in connection with the health of man is in the control of pests that transmit diseases. About three dozen diseases are known to be transmitted by insects, ticks, and mites. In addition to transmitting disease, insects affect the health and comfort of the public by their bites or stings, or by the annoyance they cause. Although little is known about the transmission of disease through insect contamination of food, there are a number of insects associated with food products that make food unwholesome.

Extension entomologists in most States are responsible for the rodent-control programs. Rodents, especially rats, are carriers of many diseases of human beings that are transmissible by insects, by bite of the rats, or by food contamination.

The following list gives the insects and the diseases they may transmit in the United States, or the other ways in which they affect health:

Insects and the Diseases They Transmit

Flies

- Anthrax
- Infantile diarrhea
- Diphtheria
- Dysentery, amoebic
- Dysentery, bacillary
- Hookworm and other intestinal parasites
- Myiasis
- *Poliomyelitis
- Trachoma
- Conjunctivitis
- Tuberculosis
- Typhoid fever
- Tularemia

Mosquitoes

- Malaria
- Filariasis
- Dengue fever
- Encephalitis

*The vectors of these diseases have not been definitely established; however, the evidence is strong that insects and mites play an important part.

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Ticks

- Spotted fever
- Colorado tick fever
- Relapsing fever
- Q fever
- Undulant fever (Brucellosis)
- Bullis fever
- Tick paralysis

Lice

- Vagabond's disease

Mites

- Itch
- Rickettsial pox
- Typhus endemic
- Enteritis

Fleas

- Typhus endemic
- Plague
- Tapeworm
- *Undulant fever (Brucellosis)

Moths

- Dermatitis
- Allergies

Roaches

- Intestinal worms
- Kissing bug
- Allergies

Insects Affecting the Health of Man by Annoyance

- Mosquitoes (bite)
- Sand flies (bite)
- Blackflies (bite)
- Deer flies (bite)
- Stableflies (bite)
- Houseflies
- Eye gnat
- Chiggers (bite)
- Ticks (bite)
- Fleas (bite)
- Bedbugs (bite)
- Kissing bugs
- Lice (bite)
- Bees (sting)
- Wasps (sting)

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Browntail moth larvae (rash from hairs)
Spiders (bite)
Scorpions (sting)
Centipedes

Insects Contaminating Food of Man

Roaches
Ants
Houseflies
Blowflies
Insects infesting cereals and other stored food
Insects and mites infesting meat and cheese

A number of diseases, which at one time were present in this country, are no longer known to exist here. There are also a number of diseases in foreign countries which could be transmitted by insects that are already in the United States. These conditions are potential hazards for which we must always be on the alert. Some of the important diseases in these categories are; Yellow fever, onchocerciasis, Chagas' disease, cholera, louse-borne typhus, and mite typhus.

